

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00440 211850Z

72

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 BIB-01 /069 W

----- 107898

R 211645Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5288

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IC UR

SUBJECT: FONMIN DENIES GOI SUPPORT FOR SOVIET NORDIC COUNCIL  
MEMBERSHIP

REF: REYKJAVIK 0410

1. DISCUSSION OF SOVIET BID FOR INSTITUTIONAL LINK TO NORDIC COUNCIL HAS FORCED FONMIN AGUSTSSON TO DENY THAT HIS RECENT VISIT TO SOVIET UNION WOULD RESULT IN ANY ICELANDIC SUPPORT FOR SUCH LINK. IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW APRIL 18, AGUSTSSON WAS ASKED WHETHER THE NEW SOVIET-ICELANDIC CULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED DURING HIS MOSCOW VISIT WOULD FACILITATE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN NORDIC AFFAIRS. HE REPLIED, "NO, I HAVE MADE NO AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR -- SECRET OR OTHERWISE -- WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO JOIN THE NORDIC COUNCIL. I HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO DO SO."

THE INTERVIEWER THEN SAID IT APPEARED FROM A NOVOSTI STATEMENT THAT THE USSR ASSUMED THAT AS RESULT OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT, USSR COULD EXPECT ICELANDIC SUPPORT FOR SOME KIND OF MEMBERSHIP IN NORDIC COUNCIL. HE ASKED IF AUGSTSSON THEN INTERPRETED AGREEMENT

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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00440 211850Z

DIFFERENTLY FROM SOVIETS. AGUSTSSON REPLIED, "I DON'T KNOW

HOW THE RUSSIANS INTERPRET THIS MATTER BUT I CONSIDER IT NONSENSE  
TO THINK THAT I HAVE IN ANY WAY GIVEN ICELAND'S SUPPORT TO RUSSIA'S  
JOINING THE NORDIC COUNCIL. THIS, AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED  
IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. THE NORDIC COUNTRIES FORM A UNITY  
WHICH NO OUTSIDE COUNTRY CAN JOIN -- NEITHER THE RUSSIANS NOR  
OTHERS."

2. COMMENT: WHILE ABOVE EXCHANGE HAS TO BE VIEWED IN CONTEXT  
OF RECENT PARTISAN ATTEMPTS TO PORTRAY AGUSTSSON AS BEING  
DANGEROUSLY CONCILIATORY TO SOVIETS, FACT REMAINS THAT SOVIET  
FEELERS ABOUT INSTITUTIONAL LINK TO NORDIC COUNCIL HAVE EVOKED  
STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION IN ICELANDIC.  
IRVING

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**To:** STATE  
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